

Contact: Tony Allen (702) 895-0893

SCHOOL OF NURSING SKILLS LAB RECEIVES DONATION OF SAFE PATIENT HANDLING EQUIPMENT

HoverTech Equipment Offers Students Latest Technology to Reduce Workplace Injuries

LAS VEGAS- January 31, 2008 – The UNLV School of Nursing’s commitment to teaching the principles of safe patient handling was strengthened today with the donation of two new pieces of equipment for use in the school’s skills laboratory.

Through the efforts safe patient handling advocate and UNLV Associate Professor Nancy Menzel, California-based ErgoCare donated a HoverJack Air Patient Lift and HoverMatt System for use by both nursing and physical therapy students at UNLV.

“This equipment is important for student nurses to have to make them aware that there are technological solutions to limit manual handling,” said Menzel.

The HoverJack Air Patient Lift is an inflatable, multi-level mattress that reduces the risk of injury to both patient and staff by lifting (via inflation) the patient from the floor to bed or stretcher level in a supine position. The HoverMatt System is a friction-reducing patient transfer pad that has been proven to require 93 percent less force than a draw sheet. Both pieces of equipment are manufactured by HoverTech International.

(more)

Workplace injuries among nurses are an emerging health concern, increasing the need for equipment and regulations to limit manual handling. Current research on workplace injuries reveals:

- Up to 12 percent of registered nurses who leave the profession each year do so because of musculoskeletal (mostly back) injuries
- More than 50 percent of nurses suffer from chronic back pain
- The US Bureau of Labor Statistics consistently ranks nursing in the top ten of all occupations in terms of musculoskeletal injuries with lost workdays
- Costs associated with back injuries in the healthcare profession are estimated to be \$20 billion annually

“When students graduate and are looking for jobs, we urge them to ask potential employers to describe their healthcare ergonomics program and list any moving and handling equipment available on the unit,” said Menzel. “This will help protect the next generation of nurses from injury and drive change in the hospitals to remain competitive in attracting our graduates.”

In addition to the HoverTech equipment, the School of Nursing has received donations of ceiling lift equipment from SureHands Lift and Care Systems and patient transfer aids from Arjo to its nursing skills lab on campus.

For more information on ErgoCare, please visit <http://ergocare.net>. More information on HoverTech equipment can be found online at www.hovermatt.com.